



*FFW*

**PATENT**

Applicant: Peter E. Hand, et al.

Serial No.: 10/814,390

Filed: March 30, 2004

Title: **ENHANCED BILL**

**ACCEPTOR/DISPENSER FOR VENDING  
MACHINES**

Examiner: Jeffrey A. Shapiro

Group Art Unit: 3653

Attorney Docket No.: 41286.00034

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that on November 17, 2005, which is the date I am signing this certificate, I am depositing this correspondence and all identified attachments with the United States Postal Service, first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop – Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

*June L. Etheridge*  
June L. Etheridge

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Mail Stop – Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED AUGUST 18, 2005**

Sir:

The Examiner issued an Office Action on August 18, 2005 in the above-identified case, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. In the Office Action, the Examiner identifies claims 26-30 as pending in the application and indicates that claims 26-30 are rejected. Apparently, however, the claims considered by the Examiner were not the claims pending in the instant application. The instant application does not have any claims matching claim numbers 26-30. Accordingly, the applicant cannot respond to the Office Action and a new Office Action is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1853 during the pendency of prosecution of this application. Should such additional fees be associated with an extension of

time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed for the Deposit Account, should it be needed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Abel', is written over the typed name.

David B. Abel, Reg. No. 32,394  
Attorney for Applicant

**Squire, Sanders & Dempsey, LLP**  
801 South Figueroa, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/814,390	03/30/2004	Peter E. Hand	41286.00034	5402

7590 08/18/2005  
 David B. Abel, Esq.  
 SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY, LLP  
 14th Floor  
 801 South Figueroa  
 Los Angeles, CA 90017



EXAMINER

SHAPIRO, JEFFERY A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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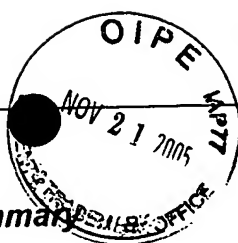
3653

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

*Wrong set  
 of claims  
 examined.  
 no claims 26-30  
 D.B.A.*

*41286-34/US*  
 ACTION *Amend Resp. Due*  
 DUE DATE 11-18-05  
*2-18-06 (FINAL)*



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## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/814,390

Applicant(s)

HAND ET AL.

Examiner

Jeffrey A. Shapiro

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 26-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 26-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/5/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 27-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

For example, from the applicant's language recited in Claim 27, it is unclear whether the applicant is claiming the combination of a "vending machine" and a "note acceptor-dispenser" or the subcombination of the "note acceptor-dispenser" only. For example, in the preamble it is clear that a "vending machine" is being claimed alone. However, in lines 3-11 of Claim 27, for example, the "note acceptor-dispenser" is being positively recited thus rendering it unclear as to whether or not combination of a "vending machine" and "note processing, dispensing and change device" or subcombination of "vending machine" alone is being claimed.

For the purposes of this application the following action is directed toward the subcombination of a "vacuum duct" only.

2. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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In line 5, it is unclear whether the transportation unit is for dispensing notes from the storage area or the storage area is for dispensing notes from the note storage area. It is suggested that the word "and" be inserted after "storage area", first recitation, and the word "and" be placed at the end of line 3.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Katou et al (US 2004/0182677 A1).

Katou discloses a vending machine in the form of automated teller machine (101), a note acceptor-dispenser (1), a note validator (30), a note box (60), a note hopper (40) that temporarily stores said notes, and a transportation unit (501, 502, 503, 504). See figures 3 and 6-13, 23-26, 30a-30c and 31.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey A. Shapiro whose telephone number is

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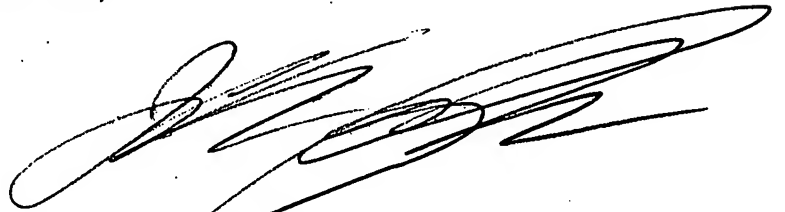
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(571)272-6943. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald P. Walsh can be reached on (571)272-6944. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jeffrey A. Shapiro  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3653

August 15, 2005



DONALD P. WALSH  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600



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PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	Unassigned
Filing Date	Herewith
First Named Inventor	Raymond Heidel
Art Unit	Unassigned
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Attorney Docket Number	41286-00036

Sheet 1 of 1

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US- 5,499,944	03/19/1996	Weston, et al.	
		US- 6,012,832	01/11/2000	Saunders, et al.	
		US- 6,068,101	05/30/2000	Dickenson, et al.	
		US-			
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>4</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		WO 99 22350 A	05/06/1999	Nippon Kinsen		
		DE 198 33 078 A1	01/27/2000	Bally Wulff		

Examiner  
SignatureDate  
Considered

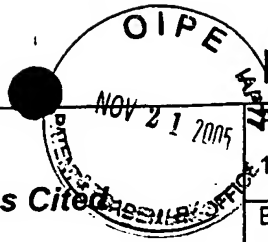
8/16/05

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered; whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.



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Application/Control No.

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Applicant(s)/Patent Under  
Reexamination  
HAND ET AL.

Examiner

Jeffrey A. Shapiro

Art Unit

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**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Name	Classification
	A	US-2004/0182677. A1	09-2004	Katou et al.	194/206
	B	US-			
	C	US-			
	D	US-			
	E	US-			
	F	US-			
	G	US-			
	H	US-			
	I	US-			
	J	US-			
	K	US-			
	L	US-			
	M	US-			

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

*		Document Number Country Code-Number-Kind Code	Date MM-YYYY	Country	Name	Classification
	N					
	O					
	P					
	Q					
	R					
	S					
	T					

**NON-PATENT DOCUMENTS**

*		Include as applicable: Author, Title Date, Publisher, Edition or Volume, Pertinent Pages)
	U	
	V	
	W	
	X	

\*A copy of this reference is not being furnished with this Office action. (See MPEP § 707.05(a).)  
Dates in MM-YYYY format are publication dates. Classifications may be US or foreign.